Police

Alleged assault by soldiers on pedestrians near the Munro Statue, Madras.

* 521-A *Q.*—Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that T. N. Sundararaman, a clerk of the Burmah Shell Company and five others were assaulted by eleven soldiers near the Munro Statute on their way back from the Gaiety Theatre to Georgetown on the night of 2nd November 1935; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the police of the Law College Police Station refused to take action saying that such things have become common and that they were helpless?

A.—(*a*) A complaint of assault on himself and some others by British soldiers was made by T. M. Sundararaman at the Law College Police Station at 1-15 a.m. on 3rd November 1935.

(*b*) No; a full investigation of the complaint is in progress.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" In view of the fact that such occurrences happen every now and then, will the Hon. Member take stringent action and see that such things are not repeated."

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam: " May I know what the hon. Member means by ' such things.' "

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" Assaults and not taking action at the proper time."

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" These ordinary assaults are not cognizable offences."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Will the Hon. Member make arrangements for more patrolling and bundobast in that part of the road because that is the one part in the City where such things have occurred before? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" I do not know that such incidents are very frequent. It will not be safe to make a generalization out of a single incident."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have called for information and will see that prompt steps are taken in the matter? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—" It is stated in the answer that the investigation is going on."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know if the Government are aware that such incidents have occurred in this particular portion of the main road, namely, between the Willingdon Bridge and the Wallajah Road and if the Government will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements for the prevention of such assaults? "

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The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" I cannot say that such things have never happened in that part of the City; but I have no reason to believe that they are more frequent there than in any other part of the City."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER :—" May I know if Government have received definite information as to why the police refused to take action?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM :—" It is not correct to say that the police refused to take action. They have recorded a complaint and the case is being investigated into."

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Inland Waterways

Licence fee on boats plying in the Buckingham Canal.

522 *Q.*—Mr. V. T. ARASU: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the rate of licence fee that is levied on boats using the Buckingham Canal;

(*b*) whether in case during any part of the year the canal is unfit for traffic either on account of low level of water or on account of floods, any refund is made of the licence fees collected from the owners of boats; and

(*c*) if no such refund is made, why it is not done?

A.—(*a*) The rate of licence fees is as follows:—

	Annual.			Six weeks.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Steamers or motor vessels per ton of registered tonnage	25	8	0	*7	8	0
Open cargo boats per ton of registered tonnage	4	8	0	0	15	0
Passenger boats and decked cargo boat per ton of registered tonnage ..	6	0	0	1	3	6

* For the first six weeks' licence and Rs. 4-8-0 for each of the subsequent licences in any one year.

(*b*) & (*c*) Under the Navigation rules licences are granted subject to the condition that claims for compensation in consequence of the closure of all or any of the canals for repairs, insufficiency of water or any other impediment to navigation shall not be recognized, but the Executive Engineer may extend the period of a six weeks' licence, without payment of an additional fee, in the event of a boat being stranded through an unforeseen insufficiency of water. The period of extension so granted shall not exceed the time required for the boat to reach its destination after the canal has again become navigable.